

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 08837 110816Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5496

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 8837

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH FOOD SUPPLIES IMPROVE

1. TRYBUNA LUDU OF DECEMBER 10 REPORTS THAT MARKET SUPPLY WAS THE FIRST TOPIC DISCUSSED AT THE DECEMBER 9 POLITBIURO MEETING. THE REPORT SAID THAT MORE FOOD HAD BEEN IMPORTED AND SUPPLIES WERE GREATER THAN DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

2. ACCORDING TO THE OBSERVATIONS OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS, SUPPLIES IN WARSAW HAVE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY. MEAT IS AVAIAABLE, AFTER A LONG WAIT IN LINE.

RICE HAS RETURNED TO THE SHELVES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE JUNE DISTURBANCES. ORANGES, BANANAS, TANGERINES, AND DATES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. THE CONSULATES IN POZNAN AND KRAKOW REPORT SIMILAR MARKET IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING THE APPEARANCE OF NEW STOCKS OF CLOTHING AND IMPORTED WINES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CONVENTIONAL WISDOM THAT THE POLISH WORKER IS FOND OF FEASTING DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. THIS YEAR A FEAST IS MANDATORY; THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF THE AUTUMN SHORTAGES, DISGRUNTLED SHOPPERS HAVE BEEN HEARD CONSOLING THEMSELVES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT SUPPLIES WERE BEING HELD BACK FOR CHRISTMAS. IT APPEARS THEY WERE RIGHT. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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